

3.11 HISTORIC and CULTURAL RESOURCES

This assessment of historic and cultural resources is based on the Heritage Resources Investigations report prepared by Northwest Archeological Associates, Inc., 2003 (on file at KCHA offices).

3.11.1 Regulatory Context

Prehistoric and Native American resources are protected by a series of Federal laws, regulations, and guidelines. The KCHA and KC DDES are preparing this portion of the Draft EIS to satisfy NEPA requirements and in order to comply with Section 106 and 110 (d)(6)(B) of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) P.L. 102-575; 16 U.S.C. 470F. Within the state of Washington, the State Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) administer the National Register program. The KCHA is also required to comply with the Washington state laws addressing cultural resources protected by the Archaeological Sites and Resources Act (RCW 27.53) and the Indian Graves and Records Act (RCW 27.44).

Locally, King County administers a regional historic preservation program to identify, evaluate and protect historic and archaeological resources. The King County Comprehensive Plan provides that the County "shall encourage land uses and development that retain and enhance significant historical and archaeological resources and sustain historical community character." The Plan requires that County agencies coordinate with the Office of Cultural Resources to provide consistent review of County undertakings and projects in unincorporated King County. The County Landmark Code (KCC 20.62) also provides the Historic Preservation Officer with substantive authority under SEPA to review proposed projects that would alter, demolish, relocate or affect the historic character of any resource identified in the King County Historic Resource Inventory.

The King County Landmarks Commission is responsible for designating historic landmarks in unincorporated King County. These landmarks are properties important to local, state or national history and worthy of recognition and preservation. Once a property is designated as an historic landmark, a Certificate of Appropriateness issued by the Landmarks Commission is necessary for any exterior changes, relocation or demolition of the property.

An historic resource may be designated as King County landmark if it is more than forty years old and possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and:

1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state or local history; or
2. Is associated with the lives of a person significant in national, state or local history; or
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, style or method of design or construction, or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
4. Has yielded, or may be likely yield, information important in prehistory or history; or
5. Is an outstanding work of a designer or builder who has made a substantial contribution to the art.

A resource may also be designated as a community landmark if it is an easily identifiable visual feature of its neighborhood, contributes to the distinctive quality or identity of the neighborhood, or because of its association with significant historical events or historic themes, association with important persons, or recognition by local citizens for substantial contribution to the community.

Under applicable laws, the KCHA and KC DDES are responsible for making a reasonable and good faith effort to identify Indian tribes that attach significance to the Greenbridge site. The following entities have been asked to review this Draft EIS and provide their initial or additional input and information for inclusion in the Final EIS.

- OAHP's State Historic Preservation Officer
- King County Landmarks and Heritage Program
- National Park Service
- Duwamish Tribe
- Muckleshoot Tribe
- Puyallup Tribal Council
- Snoqualmie Tribe
- Suquamish Tribe
- Tulalip Tribes

Efforts to contact tribes and other public entities occurred during the preparation of this Draft EIS; see Section VII for documentation regarding communications with these groups.

3.11.2 Area of Potential Effect

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for historic and cultural resources was identified using the Proposed Master Plan data and maps, and field survey data. The State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has confirmed that the APE used for this project is appropriate identification of the affected environment and to assess probable impacts. The historic and cultural resource assessment was conducted within the APE, in compliance with federal requirements.

3.11.3 Historic Setting

Historic use of the project site includes development as a federal defense housing project during the World War II era and subsequent adaptation for low-income residents under the ownership of the King County Housing Authority.

The housing development now known as Park Lake Homes I, was built as White Center Heights (Defense Housing Project #45133) by the Federal Public Housing Administration of the National Housing Agency. The project officially began on May 20, 1942, with initial occupancy on February 2, 1943, and completion in June 1943. It was the Housing Authority's first Seattle-area project, constructed at the same time as the first two Kirkland projects. The main purpose was to serve workers in the nearby Duwamish industries, primarily for construction of the Boeing "Flying Fortress," as well as shipyards and steel mills. White Center Heights was the largest Housing Authority project, with 600 families housed in 300 duplexes. When White Center Heights was nearing completion, in February 1943, a second project, called Lakewood Park, was begun just to the south. This project, consisting of 400 temporary rowhouses, was

first occupied in June of 1943. At the end of World War II, White Center Heights had 2,400 residents in its 600 units, an average of four people per unit. Nearby Lakewood Park had an additional 1,366 people. This equaled about 41 percent of the residents of all the Housing Authority's projects at that time (KCHA, 1946).

White Center Heights, like all the local defense housing projects, was an active community with numerous clubs and varied sports and social activities for adults, teenagers and children. The community building was the focus of social life, with a gymnasium/auditorium, a kitchen, a grocery store, a child care center and meeting space for clubs, classes and other activities including dances, lectures and religious services. A children's playground and other sports facilities were available outdoors. A branch of the King County library was located nearby at Lakewood Park.

In the mid-1960s Lakewood Park, the defense housing project south of White Center Heights, was demolished and replaced with new low-income units. These 400 townhouses had been intended as temporary housing, and had long outlived their usefulness. The new development was called Park Lake Homes. Several new duplexes were also added in vacant spaces near White Center Heights Elementary School. In 1975 work began on updating the 600 units at White Center Heights. The duplexes were completely modernized, with new foundations, windows, cladding, roofs and porches as well as new electrical and plumbing systems, insulation, fixtures and appliances. This modernization project was completed in 1982. At this time the two projects were renamed, and the former White Center Heights became known as Park Lake Homes Site I. A new 20,000 square foot community building and recreation center was built on the location of the original community building on the east side of 8th Avenue SW. A new Head Start building was added adjoining on the north.

White Center Heights Elementary School was constructed as a separate Federally funded project in 1943. It was located at the south edge of the residential area at the northeast corner of 8th Avenue SW and SW 102nd Street. The original school building accommodated 350 students in eleven classrooms, plus a near-by pre-school structure. Post-war growth led to expansions in 1953 and in the 1960s. By 1967 there were 690 elementary students and 175 students in the primary school (the former pre-school). The school was redeveloped in 1973, when renovation of Park Lake Homes began. The original 1943 classrooms were demolished and replaced with eight new classrooms, a resource center and a school office complex. The former pre-school building became a senior citizens center. Some of the Housing Authority's property was used for the expansion. The 1973 school has recently been demolished and construction of a new school is underway.

Park Lake Homes I originally contained 300 duplexes (600 units) plus a community building and maintenance building. The previous discussion describes the buildings as originally planned and built. However, the buildings were significantly changed in the 1975-82 modernization, as described below.

The buildings were divided into four geographical sectors and four building types, all quite similar. The original plans called for 344 buildings, although 300 were actually constructed.

- Sector I: Buildings 1- 47, east of 4th Avenue SW
- Sector II: Buildings 48 -156
- Sector III: Buildings 157- 218
- Community buildings on 8th Avenue SW

Sector IV: Buildings 219 - 344, west of 8th Avenue SW

The duplexes, all single-story, varied primarily in size, with slight variations in the type of cedar cladding (board and batten, shiplap or shingle) and in detailing. They had concrete post foundations and shallow-pitched gable roofs. All units were equipped with a coal heater with a brick chimney, centrally located in the living room, as well as a refrigerator and range, a utility room and bedroom closets. The living rooms were enhanced by the buildings' major feature, large divided light windows with either nine or twelve 16 inch by 18-inch glass panes, with a 10-inch wide window seat on the interior. Main entries, either at the ends of the buildings or in the front, had simple wood stoops. A coal bin and a shelter for trashcans were located between each two buildings.

According to the original plans, the majority of buildings were two-bedroom units; these totaled 189 buildings with 378 units, or 63 percent of the total. Thirty-four buildings (68 units) had one-bedroom units. Only two buildings were constructed in the Type B variation. One quarter of the units (75 buildings, or 150 units) were in the three-bedroom Type D buildings.

Type A and B buildings had two one-bedroom units, measuring 48 feet by 48 feet (Figure 5). Each 576-square foot unit had a living room (18' 4" by 11'8"), a bedroom (12'3" by 11'4"), a utility room (5'4" by 5'6"), a bathroom and a kitchen with a small eating area. Entries were at each end of the building, each with a simple stoop sheltered by a flat roof, with wood steps, a wood balustrade and wood slats along the side to provide a sense of privacy. Type B units were similar to Type A, with front entries.

Type C buildings measured 60 feet by 24 feet, with two two-bedroom units of 720 square feet each. Entries are on the front, with wide eaves covering the porch. The plans called for board-and-batten siding with horizontal wood in the gable ends and on the skirting. The living room had an eating area, but was only slightly larger than in the Type A buildings. The two bedrooms were slightly smaller than those in the one-bedroom units. Type D buildings have three bedrooms, with each unit having 864 square feet but with each room smaller than in the other units.

The interior of each unit consists of a small living room, entered directly from the front door; a kitchen, a utility room, a bathroom; and one to three bedrooms (about 110 to 130 square feet). Larger units have slightly larger kitchens, providing more dining space; none have a separate dining area. Kitchens have a refrigerator, electric range, sink and cabinets with minimal counter space.

The most distinctive structures were the community buildings. These consisted of two flat-roofed Modernist structures with asymmetrical footprints, located on the east side of 8th Avenue SW. The larger one, measuring approximately 101 feet by 64 feet, contained a community room, club and craft rooms and a kitchen. The second building was to the north, connected by a covered passageway. Its footprint was roughly L-shaped, and it contained the management office, storerooms, a large shop, restrooms a boiler room and a garage at the north end. These structures appear to have been the most architecturally distinctive in the project, clearly reflecting the Modernist style that was then becoming popular in architectural design. These buildings were demolished in the mid-1970s.

Park Lake Homes I is distinguished from the surrounding communities by its curvilinear street plan. The internal street plan consists of two through roads (that were preexisting), 8th and 2nd

avenues SW, with houses aligned along several interior curving roads, constructed as part of the project. The buildings are generally in even rows facing the street. Community buildings were originally, and are now, located on the primary north-south street, 8th Avenue SW.

Cultural Setting

The majority of recent archaeological investigations in the area have taken place because of specific development projects. The closest site to the project parcel is the Duwamish No. 1 Site (45KI23), on the west bank of the Duwamish River approximately 2½ miles north of the project. The site is a large shell midden, comprised of materials reflecting four occupations of different ages and indicative of at least 1,000 years of Native American resource and land use in the area between A.D. 670 and A.D. 1700 (Campbell 1981; Jermann et al. 1977; Robbins et al. 1998; URS Corporation and BOAS, Inc. 1987).

Only one archaeological study has taken place within one mile of the project. This was the survey of a proposed cell tower site and no heritage resources were recorded (Rooke 2002). There are no known prehistoric or historic sites within one mile of the project.

The project site is on a plateau overlooking the Duwamish River Valley and may have been used prehistorically for activities peripheral to riverine and saltwater shore occupation such as; hunting, plant gathering, and cedar bark procurement. Evidence of prehistoric use might include isolated projectile points, flaked cobbles and other tools for plant or tree processing, and sparse scatters of lithic debitage indicative of tool repair. Because of the location, the potential exists for prehistoric sites pre-dating the Osceola Mudflow (before 5,700 years ago) when the parcel overlooked the Duwamish embayment. The presence of wetlands in the area prior to historic development increases the likelihood of prehistoric resource utilization, however the development that has occurred since Euroamerican settlement reduced the probability that evidence of prehistoric use remains.

During development of the original war housing, the project site experienced significant earth disturbance. Due to the extent of this disturbance, on-site field investigations were not conducted to evaluate the paleontological resources, such as physical remains, impressions, or traces of plant and animals or artifacts from former human activities.